

A Fair Comparison

—OF—

Prices and General Condition of Farmers in Ontario and New York State

—MADE BY—

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—AND—

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We, the undersigned members of the House of Commons, realizing the great difficulty in arriving at a conclusion as to the advantage or disadvantage of the proposed Trade agreement with the United States, thought it would be advisable to take a trip over into the State of New York to make personal enquiries in order to get our information directly from the Farmers, Dairymen, Merchants and other classes, for the benefit of our own constituents.

So taking advantage of the Easter holidays we started to make our investigation. Leaving Ottawa the night of the 12th of April and going first to Brockville, and the next morning we started work at the market, interviewing a large number of farmers, also butchers, produce dealers and dealers in agricultural machinery. The result will be found in a table of prices later on in our report.

After leaving Brockville we drove to Prescott and continued our enquiries, interviewing Farmers, Implement Agents and others. We also visited at Prescott, Ont., the creamery of Mr. Small. We found the report that had been in circulation that large quantities of milk and cream was being exported to the United States was without any foundation as there was no milk, cream or other Dairy products being exported at present as the prices are higher in Canada. The result of our finding at Prescott will be found in the following table. After leaving Prescott we proceeded across the St. Lawrence to Ogdensburg, N. Y. This city has between twenty and thirty thousand population and should be a good market town. It is the largest town in the United States on the St. Lawrence river. It is the principal entry port for that section of the United States. We attended a horse sale there, where horses from the Western States were put on the market and they were offered at Ogdensburg (after all the charges of bringing them to the place) at from 25 to 50 dollars less than they would be worth in Ontario. We visited Mr. H. G. Chandler's place of business, he deals in produce, and found prices considerably lower than in Ontario. We also visited the warehouse of the International Harvester Company and got the retail prices of agricultural Machinery, Farm wagons, etc., We also made particular enquiries as to farm prices and found that an average farm was worth at least \$1,000 less than the same farm would be worth in Ontario, as near a good City market. We learned of a first-class farm of 108 acres belonging to the Smithers estate, seven miles from Ogdensburg, and near a railway station at Heuvelton, was sold at auction to close the estate and while a first-class farm, only brought \$3,385.

We visited different places all the way to Oswego interviewing Farmers, Merchants, Dairymen and others and found prices for farm products lower than in Ontario and nearly everything the farmer needs to buy was as high as in any corresponding part of Canada. At a large and up-to-date Creamery out from Oswego, they were charging more for making butter than in

Ontario. They had run the whey into a creek until the matter had been taken up by the Board of Health. They are now making arrangements to turn whey into granulated sugar, as the raising of hogs, as well as beef and mutton has had to be discontinued here almost altogether as the big packing combines have almost complete control of the industry and are supplying the retail trade from Chicago. The farmers in the Eastern States find they cannot compete in raising meat products with the great corn district in the middle and western states, several farmers told us that a carload of hogs could not be purchased in that whole section of the country, the consequence is farm values are low in the East. We found the common idea in Canada that railroad rates were two cents per mile in the United States was wrong, as we had to pay two and one-half cents per mile everywhere we travelled. The places we visited were in the State of New York and as the city of New York is in the State of New York, the farmers would have no difficulty in shipping to that large market. There would be no interstate commerce law to bother them. The one railway, the New York Central, going direct to New York. The one Express Company all under one law. No bothersome Customs to pass. As even where things are free the Customs are a formidable barrier to the Canadian exporter. As the American Customs regulations require an affidavit with every shipment passing into the United States. And all shipments are liable to be searched at the pleasure of the Officials, to determine whether any foreign productions were being shipped in as Canadian. The Canadian farmer would not only have to pass the Customs Houses, but he would have to deal with two or more lines of railways also two or more Express Companies and over a portion of the journey his produce would be carried in a foreign land in the making of whose laws or in the administering of the same he would have no voice.

Everything would favor the American Farmer. He is earlier in the market, he out-numbers the Canadian twelve to one and has a wider range of climate and production.

At the City of Watertown, N. Y., we met a merchant named John T. Farmer, who moved from Havelock to Watertown eight years ago. He states that there are a large number of Canadians in the city and they are arriving there all the time. The present Mayor is a Canadian, as well as the Ex-Mayor and Canadians are to be found everywhere in the city.

Mr. Farmer's place of business is at 700 Mill street. He gave us a lot of information with regard to produce. He was retailing potatoes at .45 cts. per bag, also paying the farmers .15c per dozen for eggs, butter from 18 to 20 cents.

Mr. Farmer was selling less butter than formerly as oleomargarine was fast driving butter out of the market. He was selling 18 lbs. of oleomargarine to one pound of butter, and states that the people are being weaned off butter. We also met Mr. G. H. Capworth, of Syracuse, who runs a number of retail stores

in this part of New York State. He stated that last year he was selling fifty tubs of butter per week, but this year he was selling one hundred tubs of Oleomargarine per week and only twelve tubs of butter.

It is certain that this very large use of oleomargarine has struck the butter trade a very serious blow.

The effect on the butter trade will be bad. In fact it has already depressed prices in the United States, and in the case of free exchange it would undoubtedly very seriously cripple the butter trade and lessen the profits of every producer of butter in Canada. To sum up our own investigation in New York State, we found there were very few horses, cattle, sheep or swine raised for the market. The farmers there finding it hard to compete with the farmers in the Corn Belt and western states, where production is cheaper.

The farmers in York state seemed to be confining themselves to dairying and fruit raising very largely, growing only enough grain and feed to serve their stock. And on the above productions it will be shown by the table below, they are getting a less return than their neighbors, the Canadian farmers.

In the table of comparative prices below, there will be some variation from prices at particular places, but taking all places we visited and striking an average the figures will be found substantially accurate. With regard to cheese we have taken the prices realized by actual sale by Cheese Boards during the time we were investigating.

Prices paid to and by the farmers

In Ontario

Horses,	\$150.00 to \$250.00
Cows,	\$45.00 to \$75.00
Barley,	\$62.00 to \$65.00
Butter fat,	27 cts. a lb.
Milk, April,	\$1.00
Cheese,	11½c
Eggs, farmers,	20c
Potatoes,	\$1.10
Beef carcase, native,	\$10.35
Maple syrup,	\$1.00
Butter, creamory,	27c
Butter, farmer,	25c
Hay,	\$10.00
Binders,	\$130.00
Mowers,	\$50.00
Rakes,	\$24.00
Wagon complete,	\$78.00
Disc,	\$25.00 to \$28.00
Double Harness,	\$36.00
Walking plow,	\$12.00

and in New York state

Horses,	\$75.00 to \$210.00
Cows,	\$40.00 to 60.00
Barley,	\$60.00 to \$65.00
Butter, a lb.,	21c a lb.
Milk,	60c to 65c
Cheese,	10½c
Eggs,	15c.
Potatoes,	\$4.45 to \$6.60
Beef carcase, native,	\$7.50
Maple syrup,	\$1.00
Butter, creamery,	21c.
Butter, farmer,	20c.
Hay,	\$10.00
Binders,	\$120.00
Mowers,	\$45.00 to \$50.00
Rakes,	\$22.00
Wagon complete,	\$75.00
Disc,	\$25.00 to \$28.00
Double Harness,	\$45.00
Walking plow,	\$18.00

(Signed)

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